

MILLER'S TIME



**Fox Lane Quarterback Eric Miller
Runs for a Pair of Second-Half TDs
in a 29-7 Season-Opening Victory
at Roy C. Ketcham on Friday Night**

Sports

Sports Remain a Unifying Force for Young, Old

By Ray Gallagher

Examiner Sports Editor, @Directrays

Ever since I was five, sports has always been a great unifier, something that brought my dad and I together... even during those tough early years I thought we'd never survive #LoveYouPop. When those terrorist bastards crashed those two planes into the Twin Towers on 9/11 of 2001, it was that emotional Mike Piazza home run for the NY Mets to beat the Braves in late September that allowed joy to creep back into the hearts of tortured New Yorkers. It was the NFL that took our minds off the dreadful sorrow stored within us all after we watched folks jump from the windows of the towers rather than perish from the heat and infernos produced by jet fuel. It was the blue seats of Madison Square Garden where we gathered temporarily in unison to put 9/11 out of our minds, if only for three hours at a clip. Twenty years ago this month, sports were our salvation... the one thing that galvanized us when we sorely needed a pick-me-up.

Sports have always brought us together, but it'll take more than sports this time. Americans are fighting an internal war among ourselves these days, a war without a winner. Again, though, it was football that brought many of us together last Friday night at places like Somers, Yorktown, Lakeland, Putnam Valley, Arlington and many more... venues that, spearheaded by local adolescents, honored our fallen heroes with USA-clad themes.

Those of us that partake in these commemorations provide a glimmer of hope in a sea of recent despair that too many of us wake up to these days on account of the political division within our once-great country, a republic that can rise and regain status once again under proper leadership. Let's agree on one thing, folks: The swamp is deep, and this semi-divided country couldn't be any closer to the bottom of that bayou than it currently is #LetsHopeSo.

Turning the corner starts in our schools, where administrators, school boards and teachers need to stay on point and leave THEIR politics out of the classroom.



DERRICK QUILES PHOTO @DQPHOTOGRAPHICS

Not to be outdone by anyone, Yorktown's Crop went all out in red, white and blue Friday night.

Getting out from this dead end won't happen if a biased media continues to steer the narrative and quickly turn the page on 13 dead servicemen/women that didn't have to die in Afghanistan on Aug. 26. Those 13 were honored by the @Carmel_Crazies last Friday night in Arlington with 13 USA folded flags on the front row of the visiting bleachers. One thing I know: Carmel kids get it and always have when it comes to patriotism.

Turning the corner means the left and right need to agree to disagree, CIVILLY!, without scorn for one another. My body/mind chooses sports as its release from all things detrimental. It takes me away from the depravity of CNN for a few hours, if even to be tortured by the recent play of the Mets/Yankees as we head down the stretch of this insufferable MLB season (as if I'd ever turn on CNN!). Though Sunday night's 7-6 Mets win over the Yanks was as good as baseball gets.

But now I'm being told by Madison Square Garden authorities that my healthy 13-year-old son MUST get the COVID-19 vaccine before we can see the NY Rangers contest the Montreal Canadiens on Nov. 16. Apparently, we have no choice if we want to parade around the world's most famous arena like "normal" fathers and sons do, because a couple of Karens -- NYC Mayor Bill DeBlasio among them -- insist my son must get the jab if he wants to sport his Mika Zibanejad jersey at the Garden. Look, I was first in line for the vaccine at the Westchester County Center back in February because I'm pleasantly plump, pushing mid-50s,

love me some wine and worry about my declining health, so it's not like I'm anti-vax. But how dare you mandate that on my kids and preclude my children from sports arenas because my wife and I opt otherwise for them on account of the actual science (a better than 99.5% survival rate for their age group)?

I don't pretend to have the answers to any of this malarkey but I do know that sports has always been our get-away, and now they're taking that, too, so I'm asking you kids to do all of us oldtimers a solid, even though many of you were merely a twinkle in your father's eye at the time of 9/11: #NeverForget! #BePatriots! #SaveThisCountry!



PHOTO COURTESY OF TWITTER

Putnam Valley Superfans went all red, white and blue Friday.

Somers Beats 1st Three Foes by Combined 24-0 Margin



ANDY JACOBS PHOTO

Somers senior midfielder Daniel D'Ippolito (13) scored twice and set up a third goal in the state-ranked (No.1) Tuskers' 7-0 win over visiting Tappan Zee last Friday night when the Tuskers' third shutout of the season allowed the Tuskers to combine for a ridiculous 24-0 edge on their first three foes. Jacques Verard put a pair between the pipes in a span of eight minutes for a 5-0 lead. Tuskers Bennet Leitner and Jake Riina each scored one goal and one assist. In other boys' soccer action, Lakeland's Mike Rodriguez notched the game-winner in OT in a 2-1 win over Hen Hud. He also set up Bryan Jaramillo for the first Hornets goal. In Carmel's 4-0 win over Fox Lane, Ram hotshot Dwyant Suazo broke the scoreless deadlock 10 minutes into the second half on a penalty kick. Neel Walia added another for a 2-0 lead off a Jack Curtis free kick. David Maldonado served one up for Anthony Vara and Curtis finished out the scoring on a free kick as the Class AA state-ranked (No.17) Rams improved to 2-0. Yorktown did likewise when the electric combo of Peter Tinaj (1G, 1A) and George Popvic (1G, 1A) paced the state-ranked (No.8) Huskers in a 3-0 win over Port Chester. Zach Palmer added a third tally. Four Class A teams from Section 1 are ranked in the state polls, including Byram Hills (No.13) and Rye (No.19) -- by Ray Gallagher



MATTHEW TURRI PHOTO

Lakelanders flooded 'The Hive' with pro-USA theme Friday in win over Panas.

Brewster Stuns Yorktown, Somers Edges Mahopac, Carmel Looks Stout

By Ray Gallagher
Examiner Sports Editor @Directrays

While everyone was focused on the big dogs of Class A last Friday at **SOMERS** High, which narrowly defeated **MAHOPAC**, 17-14, in the DeMatteo Bowl II, it was Coach Ed Mulvihill's **BREWSTER** Bears that took Section 1 off the chain and unleashed a stunning 33-20 upset of host **YORKTOWN**.

Scores were coming in at an alarming fashion, including a 33-7 Brewster lead behind QB Chris Donohue's two TD strikes, and DB Luke Sanchez's pick 6. Local media types, of which were aplenty at Somers, were seen scrolling through Twitter with one hand and scratching their heads with the other as one of the biggest opening-day upsets in recent history unfolded.



Somers DB TJ Olifers makes a game-saving pick in front of Mahopac WR Jack Moore at goal line in Tuskers' 17-14 win over Indians.



Somers junior G Francesco Gioffre holds his ground in 17-14 win over Mahopac Friday.

Donohue finished 12 of 16 passing with two TD passes for 157 yards, four of those passes going to Sanchez for 36 yards.

"Sanchez had a great game for us," Brewster Coach Ed Mulvihill said after 18 holes on Saturday and perhaps a happy hour on the 19th. "Donohue also played great. Being a third-year starter he has a good understanding of the offense, so he was able to audible at times and he made some great decisions."

Brewster RB's Willie Martinez (13 carries for 96 yards and a TD) and Joey Anuso (8 carries for 63) took over in the second half for the Bears.

"First half we threw it and second half we ran it," the coach said. "The O-line did the job in the trenches. Dom Rienzi, Ryan Costales, Mike Triolo, Luca Saccomano and Chris Triolo wore them down as the game moved on."

"I knew if Chris Donohue played up to his abilities we could throw the ball on them some," Mulvihill continued. "On defense we had many questions that we didn't know the answers to. They really stepped up and swarmed to the ball. It was a good start against an elite Yorktown team, Rye, Somers and Jay being the others, so it was a good win for us."

"Defensively, Dom Rienzi and Ryan Costales were constantly in the backfield being



Brewster sophomore DE Derek 'Boogyman' Karlsson (57) stuffs the run in Bears' 33-20 upset of host Yorktown Friday.

disruptive," Mulvihill added. "Chris Triolo and Nick Sayegh also played well. Yorktown has some top rated athletes and we knew we had to contain them. For three and a half quarters we did that."

Brewster could be the surprise team of the season, perhaps a team that will be on everyone's radar from here on out. Donohue is legit, the O-line won the trench battles and the Bears' defense limited a Yorktown offense that had decent weapons going in.

"Brewster is very good," second-year Yorktown Coach Pantelis Ypsilantis said. "Their QB is the real deal and they beat us in the trenches. Is it fixable for us? Yes. When things go wrong our guys have to stick to what they are taught and do their job. We got away from the fundamentals

in the heat of the battle and it undresses everything."

The local media was out in force at **SOMERS**, so there had to be something big brewing, and the game lived up to the hype when **MAHOPAC**'s last-ditch Hail Mary was picked off by Somers DB TJ Olifers, his second pick of the day at the goal line. The kid has a nose for the ball and excelled on the defensive side of it.

Somers junior Ravi Dass turned the tide on a dime when the electrifying RB took the opening kick of the second half 90 yards to the house. This kid can jet.

Somers RB Matt Kapica had 59 combined yards of offense, including 32 yards rushing and 27 receiving. Derek Marcus had a team-high 13 carries for 56 yards. Somers junior QB Matt Fitzsimons hit on 5 or 10 passes for 63 yards, including a deft aerial to Tery Mancuso to set up the Tuskers' fourth-quarter score. Somers forced three turnovers, had seven tackles for loss and had three sacks, two by Luke Kennedy. Dylan Faller had a team-high nine tackles while Francesco Gioffre had eight.

Somers captain Ethan Krauss (four tackles) was happy to come away with the win but knows there's work to do.

"We've definitely got some stuff to work on as a team but at the end of the day we came out with the win," the LB/TE said. "I thought Mahopac played very well and had some good plays. We are being doubted a lot as a team now that Coach D retired, and we lost most of our starters in that senior class last year, but a lot of kids are stepping up to the plate and buying in. We still have the same goals as every year, and I think we have a lot of talent that can get it done. This is a statement season and Somers isn't going down without a fight."

Disappointed with the loss, Mahopac took plenty away from the battle, including a good connection between senior QB Anthony DeMatteo and his receiving corps, including but not limited to Max Gomes (4 grabs, 38 yards), Patrick McMahon (4

continued on next page



Somers senior Trey Mancuso eyes ball but can't pull this in as Mahopac senior Ryan Rondeau and Patrick McMahon apply hit in Tuskers' 17-14 win over visiting Indians.

Sports

Football Notebook



Somers junior QB Matt Fitzsimons displayed some deft touch and plus-side ability in 17-14 win over visiting Mahopac Friday.



Mahopac DL Craig Perri sacks Somers QB Matt Fitzsimons just before half in Indians' 17-14 loss to host Tuskers Friday.



Mahopac QB Anthony DeMatteo avoids an oncoming Somers GL Jake Polito in Indians' 17-14 loss to host Tuskers Friday.

continued from previous page

for 32) Ryan Rondeau (4 for 76, INT on D) and Michael Callahan (1 for 23). DeMatteo hit on 16 of 29 attempts for 184 yards and added a score on the ground. Indian RB Joey Koch added 54 yards and a touchdown on 10 carries. The Indians also impressed on defense, forcing three turnovers to go with three sacks.

"I think we played fantastic," senior captain Adam Montalvo said. "Everything we did wrong was a Week 1 mistake we can fix. The team never quit, not for a single second. I think if we were to play them later in the season we could come out on top."

Somers is scheduled to travel to Brewster (7 p.m. Friday) in what could be a whale of a game if the Bears are for real. Mahopac will host Our Lady of Lourdes (7 p.m. Friday).

LAKELAND upended **PANAS**, 34-14, behind an incredible debut from QB Steven Dedvukaj, who connected on 15 of 20 passes for 170 yards and three TDs. The signal caller also rushed for 90 yards and two scores. He was in sync with WR Ryan Gallagher, who hauled in two TD strikes and Tyler Ronk grabbed another. Stephen Carroll had nine tackles and Connor

McGannon added six to lead the defense. Lakeland will host John Jay CR Friday (7 p.m.). Panas, which saw 6'8" 345-pound Penn State-bound senior Maleek McNeil do a little bit of everything (including a Wildcat TD and booming punts), will host Yorktown Friday (7 p.m.).

CLASS AA

CARMEL looked the part of a serious title contender when Coach Todd Cayea's Rams opened the season with an eye-popping 34-7 win over host Arlington. Senior QB Kevin Dall (8 of 13, 92 yards) hit on two TD passes, connecting with Nick DiLeo (2 catches, 29 yards) and Josh Massi (38 rushing yards, 16 receiving).

Carmel RB Dylan Shields (8 rushes, 74 yards) scampered along the sideline for a 28-yard touchdown run and a 20-0 lead before the Rams' defense batted down a pass, which was picked off by Dominick Telesco and returned for a pick-6; game over! Ram RB Nick Rosaforte (4 rushes, 22 yards) tacked on a final score with 9:40 left to play before the Ram reserves came on.

"It did feel really nice for us to pull out

that win," Carmel All-Section senior RB Josh Massi said. "We hope to get better each week as a team. Our coaches give us an excellent game plan each week, and we just have to collectively execute it."

Carmel will host Spring Valley Friday (7 p.m.).

OSSINING fell 34-6 at White Plains but kept the Tigers out of the endzone in the second half. The Pride scored their lone touchdown off of a five-yard run by Giovanni JeanPierre toward the end of the fourth.

"We ran through a buzzsaw today," Ossining's Coach Larry McRae said, adding that his team has had to overcome a series of injuries that have hampered their effectiveness.

"White Plains played well, they were well-coached and made plays when they had to, even on long conversion they made all of the plays. I think we just have to get healthy, we get down on ourselves but we just need to pick it up," he added.

Standouts for the Pride include Jorge Ramirez who saw his first career start on Friday after filling in for an injured teammate and ran for 40 yards on 10 carries and JeanPierre who ran 11 times for 21

yards and the Pride's lone touchdown.

Defensive leaders for the Pride include Vincent Bernardo who recorded 7.5 tackles, including two tackles for a loss and a forced fumble, and Jeremy Medina who secured three tackles and an interception.

The Pride has now slid to an 0-2 start after losing its week one home game 16-14 against Greeley Ossining. It will look to rebound next week at home against Port Chester (6 p.m.).

CLASS B

PUTNAM VALLEY, which lost 35-14 to **WESTLAKE**, will visit **HENDRICK HUDSON**, a 17-7 loser to Pleasantville, Friday (6 p.m.). Chris McGuire threw a 58-yard touchdown pass to Anthony Panaterri for the Sailors' lone score.

CLASS D

HALDANE routed Rye Neck 38-0 and Blue Devil sophomore RB Evan Giachinta picked up where his brother Sam, a historical Haldane figure, left off. The younger brother of Haldane's finest went for 101 yards and two scores on 18 carries in his debut as the starter. Giancarlo Carone added a 70-yard TD jaunt. The Blue Devils will visit Woodlands Saturday (1 p.m.).

Examiner-area coaches are encouraged to send results, stats and comments to raygallaghersports@gmail.com.



Lakeland QB Steven Dedvukaj hit on 15 of 20 for 170 yards and three touchdowns and rushed for 90 yards and two scores in 32-14 win over Panas.



Lakeland DE Andrew Mendel trips up Walter Panas QB Evan Salazar during the 4th quarter of Friday night's 32-14 Lakeland victory.



Lakeland RB Vincent Scaglione turns corner on first quarter run Friday in 32-14 victory over Walter Panas' Nate Lugo and John Guida.



Ossining RB Jorge Ramirez chugs for some of his 40 yards on 10 totes in 34-6 loss to White Plains Friday.



Mahopac junior RB Joey Koch takes aim at greener pastures in Indians' 17-14 loss to host Somers Friday.



Walter Panas OL Maleek McNeil guards his territory against Lakeland's Nikolin Bujaj in Panthers' loss to Lakeland Friday.



Lakeland's Jack Nugent gets wrapped up by Walter Panas defenders Cooper Schmidt and Kevin Bryan in Hornets' win over Panthers Friday.

Examiner Area Super 7 Section 1 Grid Poll

No.1 CARMEL -- If Coach Cayea's Class AA Rams (1-0) keep the horse before the cart all season, it's possible we see them face New Rochelle twice this season; once in Week 3, and perhaps, again at Mahopac for all the marbles for the second time in three years.

No.2 SOMERS -- Tusker junior RB Ravi Dass burst onto the scene like we told you he would when he returned the second half opening kickoff 90 yards for a score in the Tuskers' 17-14 win over Mahopac. Kid has the goods and evident instincts. Congrats to Coach D on his first dub.

No.3 BREWSTER -- Coach Mulvihill's Class A Bears saw QB Chris Donohue fire two touchdown passes while RB/DB Luke Sanchez took a pick-6 to the house for the Bears, who built a 33-7 lead and destroyed the pre-season narrative. Sleep on the Bears at your own peril from here on out.

No.4 WHITE PLAINS - Class AA Tiger RB Eli Pierre was the stud we thought he'd be, garnering 136 yards and two touchdowns on 10 simple carries in a 34-6 takedown of rebuilding Ossining.

No.5 MAHOPAC -- Everyone has injury issues, but Coach Dominick DeMatteo's Class A Indians were bitten as hard as anybody this preseason, but they took a next-man-up approach and were inches short of a Hail Mary win over Somers.

No.6 PLEASANTVILLE -- There's a reason why we ran sophomore Daniel Picart's photo in our gridiron preview two weeks ago and the super soph lived up to the billing in the Class B Panthers' 17-7 win over Hen Hud, dashing for a long punt return to set up Kieran Cotter's game-sealing five-yard TD score, after recovering a fumble, and finding Dominic Matica on a 40-yard touchdown pass.

No.7 WESTLAKE -- Big rematch with Class B champion Byram Hills looms this week after Wildcats dipped their toes in the water in a blowout win over Put Valley, whom they have owned over time.

HM BYRAM HILLS -- Reigning Class B champs gave Ardsley fits and QB Jared Cohen put up some nice numbers in his debut under center.

HM FOX LANE -- First-year Coach Andrew Giuliano could not have asked for a better start to his head coaching career than a 29-7 blowout of RCK.

-- Ray Gallagher

Sports

Girls Soccer Notebook

Somers Upends Mahopac, 4-0, in Battle of Reigning Champs

By Tony Pinciario

SOMERS opened the 2021 varsity girls soccer season against the same opponent it closed out the 2020 schedule -- Mahopac.

Unlike last year where the teams played to a 0-0 draw and shared the Northern Westchester/Putnam Large-School title, Somers made an emphatic statement. Somers found the back of the net, often, in a 4-0 victory, highlighted by two goals from freshman Julia Arbalaez.

Senior Martina Adornetto opened the scoring, followed by the Arbalaez pair and fellow freshman Adrianna Cook added the fourth goal.

"Offensively, we were able to establish a good rhythm and be more clinical in our finishing compared to our pre-season games," Somers senior Lily Mandel-Mueller said. "Defensively, we achieved a shutout, which is a great precedent for our upcoming games."

Mandel-Mueller is back for her second varsity season. The talented senior explained that she has been playing for the New York Soccer Girls Academy for the last five years, but it did not permit players to participate in high school soccer until last year, when she said it lifted the restrictions.

"I've been very happy to have the opportunity to play Somers' varsity soccer since junior year," Mandel-Mueller said.

Following a successful 2020 fall season, in which the fall state championships were cancelled because of the pandemic, Mandel-Mueller and her teammates are looking forward to a sense of normalcy returning.

"We are very appreciative to have a more normal season this year, and it is great to have established a good expectation for the rest of our season with a win," Mandel-Mueller said.

While the student-athletes welcome the return of the fall state championships, they are pleased to be playing mask-free this season.

"We are excited to pick up where we left off last season with the addition of new players," Mandel-Mueller said. "It is a relief



Somers is all smiles after Martina Adornetto's (R) goal, including Annie Maguire (9), Julia Arbalaez (11), Ava Giudice (17).

to not have to wear a mask while playing. It was more difficult to play with a mask on last year, but our team was able to adapt to the difference."

Mandel-Mueller is one of Somers' returning impact players. She is joined by classmates Tori Righetti (midfielder) and Alicia Hawkins (center back), juniors Ava Giudice (midfielder) and Tori Olsen (outside back) and sophomore Annie Maguire.

Somers received a glimpse of what this season might hold with Arbalaez and Cook combining for three goals.

"I think Julia and Adrianna are great additions to the team," Mandel-Mueller said. "They have a lot of enthusiasm and a desire to score that will help us throughout the season."

Mandel-Mueller said the team was prepared for the season, thanks to Somers' Coach Kelci Hegg.

"Coach Kelci is great at team building, and during our preseason, we were able to establish our tone for the new season," Mandel-Mueller said. "It is great to be back as a team, and we are looking forward to working hard for every win."

YORKTOWN is off to a 2-0-1 start thanks, in part, to putting in the extra effort in extra time.

After the Cornhuskers opened the season with a 6-0 victory over Panas, their next two games went into overtime.

Yorktown's Emily Ward scored with 24 seconds remaining in the second 10-minute



Two of the finest athletes in the region -- Somers Ava Giudice and Mahopac's Piper Klammer -- battle in Tuskers' 4-0 win over Indians.

overtime session to earn a 2-2 draw with Harrison. Juliana Vano followed with a goal 2:30 into the first overtime, sending Yorktown to a 2-1 victory over Pelham.

"Emily Ward received a short ball on a corner, prepared herself and had an incredible shot netting the goal with 24 seconds left," Yorktown Coach Richard Armstrong said. "She is very composed and is a true competitor, especially when it comes to crunch time. I was very proud of the way that we took over the overtime and pressured them until the last second ran off the clock. I think our girls battled and their endurance showed in the final minutes of OT."

Armstrong pointed out his team carried over that hard work and determination against Peham.

"From the opening whistle our girls played extremely hard," Armstrong said. "We had a few opportunities that we probably should've scored in overtime, but again resilience and ability to step up shows a lot about the character of our entire squad this year. For Jules Vano to get the game-winner speaks volumes about her competitiveness and passion for the game."

Vano had two goals and an assist against Panas. Drita Tunaj added one goal and one assist. The other goalscorers included Kristin Linehan, Katie Tomeny, Iva Chee and Ward. Olivia Lucas and Lucia Carucci registered assists.

Vano gave Yorktown a 1-0 over Harrison, converting a penalty kick. Goalie Erika Krasniqi handled 12 shots.

Yorktown's Katie Tomeny scored the first goal. Yorktown grabbed a 1-0 lead on Pelham with Tomeny scoring, assisted by Vano. Krasniqi made seven saves.

MAHOPAC, the 2020 Northern Westchester/Putnam fall co-champions with Somers, split two games to open 2021.

Mahopac used a Maddy DeCola goal to overcome Pelham, 1-0, in its season-opener as goalie Maddy McCrosson made four saves.

"It was great being back out on the field with no restrictions for our season-opener," Mahopac Coach Casey Carroll said. "Overall, a good performance for our girls with the first shutout of the year for our defense."



DERRICK QUILES PHOTO @DQPHOTOGRAPHICS
Yorktown players celebrate Emily Ward's game-tying goal off an assist from Iva Chee with 24 seconds left in 2-2 double OT vs. Harrison.



Somers' Alicia Hawkins (18) and Lily Mandel-Mueller (24) double up on Mahopac's Piper Klammer in 4-0 Tusker win over Indians.

In their first meeting since closing out the 2020 fall season in the Northern Westchester/Putnam Large-School title game, Mahopac dropped a 4-0 verdict to Somers.

"We started off the game strong, but let up the first goal off of a communication mistake that we had a hard time recovering from," Carroll said. "Our team is still working out the kinks. We were able to use this game to move some players around, having some girls try out different positions and formations to see what works best for the rest of the season."

Despite an 0-2 start for **PANAS** -- a 2-0 loss to Nanuet and 3-2 setback to Brewster, coach Matt Schiff was upbeat.

"I thought we played well, especially early in the second half, but Brewster kept playing tough and gave a ton of effort," Schiff said. "I give them a lot of credit. They never gave up."

Molly Muller and Kaylie Mellars, assisted by Giuliana Rodriguez, had Panas up 2-0 in the second half, before Brewster rallied with three goals in the final 10 minutes.

Girls' soccer coaches are encouraged to send results, stats and comments to TFinch23@optonline.net



Somers' Annie Maguire and Mahopac's Sofia Arenas wage battle in Tuskers' 4-0 win over host Indians Saturday.

MATTHEW TURRI PHOTOS

Pierre, LaSalle Produce in White Plains Grid Win over Ossining

By Ryan J. Degan

The White Plains football team sailed to victory in its home opener against Ossining High School on Friday night, overwhelming the Pride with a convincing 34-6 win that featured several stellar performances from the Tigers.

Behind the rushing attack of senior Eli Pierre and the hands of Danny LaSalle, the Tigers jumped to an early lead, scoring two touchdowns in the first quarter and adding three more in the second, on their way to a rout of the visiting Pride.

“Feel pretty good, for our first night, I thought we had a great first half,” head coach Mike Lindberg said after the game in praising his team’s effort. “Everybody got in the game, which is great. The more reps everybody gets, the better off you are.

“I thought the offensive line did a great

job,” he added. “Our backs had nice holes to run through. I thought, defensively, we had a lot of people to the ball. We had a couple of assignment mistakes, but those we can clean up. I thought that physically everybody came to play.”

By the end of the first half, Pierre had carried the ball 10 times for 136 yards and two touchdowns. He was followed by LaSalle, who secured four catches for 92 yards and two touchdowns. A highlight came midway through the second quarter when on fourth and long, Tigers quarterback Jay Biondi aired out a 41-yard touchdown pass to LaSalle.

Biondi would finish with 100 passing yards, three touchdown passes and one interception.

“We’re very excited for the rest of the season and how it is going to go,” LaSalle said. “Our big thing that we talked about was

sacrifice going into this, so being able to get everyone on the field and play is a big thing for us.”

“We’ve been doing this since sophomore year so, to come out and do this for our team and have everyone come out and play, it was great,” added Pierre. “We just have to keep it up for next week against Ketcham.”

Ossining, whose defense stepped up and held the Tigers out of the end zone in the second half, scored its lone touchdown on of a five-yard run by Giovanni JeanPierre toward the end of the fourth quarter.

“We ran through a buzz saw today,” Ossining’s head coach, Larry McRae, said, adding that his team has had to overcome a series of injuries that have hampered its effectiveness.

“White Plains played well, they were well-coached and made plays when they had to,” added McRae. “Even on long conversions, they made all of the plays. I think we

just have to get healthy. We get down on ourselves, but we just need to pick it up.”

Standouts for the Pride include Jorge Ramirez, who saw his first career start on Friday after filling in for an injured teammate and ran for 40 yards on 10 carries and JeanPierre, who ran 11 times for 21 yards and scored the Pride’s lone touchdown.

The defense for the Pride is led by Vincent Bernardo, who recorded 7.5 tackles, including two tackles for a loss and a forced fumble, and Jeremy Medina, who secured three tackles and an interception.

The Pride has now slid to an 0-2 start after losing its week one home game 16-14 against Greeley. The Pride will look to rebound next week at home against Port Chester.

Meanwhile, White Plains will return to its home field on Friday, where it will take on Roy C. Ketcham High School from Dutchess County.

White Plains Soccer



Isaiah Mercado Torres (left) and Daniel Ramirez of White Plains go airborne during a battle for the ball in Thursday’s game at Arlington.



Rhaymani Alexander of White Plains gets a step on the Arlington defense in last Thursday afternoon’s game. He scored both of the Tigers’ goals last week as they split their first two games.



White Plains senior Alejandro Vega searches the field for an open teammate in the Tigers’ 2-1 overtime loss to host Arlington.



White Plains junior Jair Cano battles for possession of the ball in last week’s game up at Arlington High School.

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Sports

Fox Lane Starts the Season by Defeating Roy C. Ketcham

By Andy Jacobs

With longtime head coach Bill Broggy stepping down following the end of the spring season just a few months ago, a new era dawned on Friday night with Andrew Giuliano taking over the reins of the Fox Lane football program.

As it turned out, Giuliano and his Foxes couldn't have asked for a better beginning. Erupting for three fourth-quarter touchdowns, two of them by quarterback Eric Miller, the Foxes broke open a close contest and wound up with a convincing 29-7 victory over the host Roy C. Ketcham Indians in the 2021 season opener.

"I'm happy, obviously. That was a big win," said Giuliano about collecting his first victory as a head coach. "I think we had a really good week of practice, which set us up for this game. The kids played a little tentative in the first half, but the way we finished the second half shows what the team's all about."

Ketcham began the game with an 11-play drive that lasted seven minutes, but eventually stalled at the Fox Lane 41-yard line. The Foxes' first play from scrimmage, an 18-yard pass from Jack Travis to Logan Matson, quickly moved them into RCK territory. But five plays later, a Fox Lane fumble was recovered by the Indians and the two teams soon started the second quarter still scoreless.

A Ketcham fumble on the second play of the quarter was fallen on by Brian Bailey, giving the Foxes possession just shy of midfield. They soon took advantage as Travis connected with a wide open Matson in the right corner of the end zone for a 28-yard touchdown right after the Indians had jumped offside on a fourth-and-three play. Matt Antolino booted the extra point and Fox Lane took a 7-0 lead with 7:16 remaining in



Fox Lane senior quarterback Jack Travis rolls out to his right looking for an open receiver in the first half of Friday night's game at Ketcham.

the half.

Another turnover by the Indians gave the Foxes the ball at the RCK 35 with 5:17 left in the half. But on third-and-eight from the 12-yard line, Travis rolled to his right and threw a pass that was picked off just in front of the goal line. The Indians couldn't move the ball, though, and when they tried to punt from the end zone the long snap sailed out bounds for a safety that stretched the Foxes' lead to 9-0 with 33.6 seconds to go before intermission.

In the third quarter, Matson put an end to another time-consuming 11-play Ketcham drive with an interception along the left sideline at the Foxes' 40-yard line. Two plays later, Travis bolted up the middle for a 20-yard gain, but the ball squirted loose as he was hitting the turf and the Indians recovered.

"Jack can scoot," said Giuliano. "He's fast.



Fox Lane standout Logan Matson runs with the football during the Foxes' season-opening win over Roy C. Ketcham.

You know, I thought he was down on that play. So that's tough. They called it a fumble. So the fact is it was a fumble."

Just two plays later, Ketcham's agile quarterback, Sean Camacho, broke past the line of scrimmage and scampered 72 yards for a touchdown. The point-after cut the Foxes' lead to just 9-7 with 3:48 remaining in the third quarter.

The Indians seemed to have all the momentum moments later when they recovered a Fox Lane fumble and took possession again at the Foxes' 47-yard line.



Luke Feingold of Fox Lane finds some running room in Friday night's 29-7 road victory.

But RCK coughed the ball up too on the very next play as Marc Berisha snatched the ball away and rumbling to the Ketcham 42. Berisha's big defensive play set the stage for a seven-play drive that bridged the third and fourth quarters and ended with Miller, the Foxes' other senior quarterback, running up the middle for a four-yard touchdown. The PAT gave Fox Lane a 16-7 cushion with 11:13 left on the clock.

With horrendous field position, RCK was forced to punt the ball on fourth-and-14 and Matson returned it to the Indians' 22-yard line. After Mike Debono ran for five yards on first down, Miller picked up the rest on second down by getting to the left sideline and slipping his way into the end zone for a 17-yard touchdown. Thought the point-after was no good, the Foxes still had a 22-7 lead with 8:46 to go.

"Eric comes in, he's just a different mentality," said Giuliano about his second talented signal caller. "He has a different mindset the way he approaches the game. He plays with a lot of fun and animation, and I think the guys responded to him in the second half."

The Foxes put the game out of reach when Matson ran 26 yards to the Ketcham 3-yard line on a sweep to the left and Noah Bernero immediately followed with a three-yard TD run. The PAT from Antolino gave the Foxes a commanding 22-point advantage with 5:33 left.

"Yeah, it was a team win," said Giuliano. "I don't know how many ball carriers, maybe seven, maybe six. Defensively, we have young guys that can run around. I'm still filling out the depth charts like everybody is in week one."

Asked what he has in mind for an encore to his first varsity win, the Foxes' brand new coach answered, "We have practice tomorrow. We'll get ready for Suffern. I don't know if they won or lost (vs. North Rockland), but we'll be ready."



Senior running back Mike Debono looks to break through the line of scrimmage in Fox Lane's 29-7 victory over host Ketcham in the season opener.



The Foxes' Mark Berisha rumbles up the field after making a key defensive play by stripping the ball late in the third quarter of Friday night's win.

Sports

Early Deficit is Too Much for Briarcliff to Overcome in Opener

By Andy Jacobs

For a good portion of Saturday afternoon's season-opener against visiting Nanuet, it seemed the Briarcliff/Hamilton football team was always just one big play away from getting back into a contest it had fallen behind by 21 points in the first half.

But that big play never quite arrived for the Bears and they finished with a 21-7 defeat to the Golden Knights on a perfect late summer day that raised the curtain on the 2021 season. Junior running back James Moran rushed for 142 yards and a pair of touchdowns as Nanuet spoiled the return of the Bears to their former conference after a couple of years competing in the Independent League.

"Yeah, we were one play away," said Bears head coach Skip Stevens afterwards. "I just don't think we ever got anything on a flow. Both on the sideline, in the game, we just never got a flow going. But we're really just young and I think we'll get better as we go along."

The Bears, fresh off their springtime Independent championship just a few months earlier, were quickly greeted by the stiffer competition Nanuet posed. The Golden Knights took possession to start the game and promptly marched 87 yards in 12 plays, scoring when quarterback Ryan Frondi rolled to his right, avoided a tackle and found his way into the corner of the end zone for a 12-yard touchdown on a third-and-six play. The point-after put the Bears behind 7-0 midway through the opening quarter.

On the ensuing kickoff, the Bears fumbled the ball away and Nanuet began another drive at the Briarcliff 38. Five plays later, Moran scored his first touchdown of the day from a yard out. Just over eight minutes into the season, the Bears were behind 14-0 and they still hadn't run a play from scrimmage yet.

"They got the ball on a short field and they were able to drive and it was 14-0 at



Briarcliff running back Brandon Rispoli turns upfield as he carries the football in the second half of Saturday afternoon's season-opening game.

that point," said Stevens. "They're a good football team. Very physical, they have a really good running back, very talented, and they play very solid on defense."

When Briarcliff/Hamilton finally did get a chance with the football, senior star Brandon Rispoli galloped to his left for an 11-yard gain on the Bears' first play. But they were soon forced to punt and the opening quarter ended with the Bears trailing by two touchdowns.

The Bears took possession again at the start of the second quarter and quickly went three-and-out as quarterback Jaylen Savage was forced out of bounds on third-and-four at his own 41, a yard shy of a first down.

The Golden Knights then took advantage of the Bears' inability to stop their running game and marched 78 yards in 11 plays. Moran concluded the drive by fighting his way into the end zone from six yards out



The Bears' Adam Harris runs with the ball during Saturday afternoon's opening game of the 2021 season.

and the Bears faced a 21-0 deficit with 4:14 left in the half.

Briarcliff/Hamilton finally gave its fans something to cheer about with a nine-play, 64-yard drive that was highlighted by a 13-yard run from Savage and then a 24-yard pass from Savage to Rispoli, who outjumped a pair of Nanuet defenders at the 3-yard line. On the next play, Savage found an opening to his left and turned on the speed to cross the goal line with 39 seconds to go in the half. The PAT from Lucas Proctor cut the Nanuet lead to 21-7.

In the third quarter, the Bears threatened to get closer on their first possession, especially when junior running back Desmond Saw burst through the line and raced 19 yards to the Nanuet 28-yard line. But on fourth down, Savage's long pass to a double-teamed Rispoli near the end zone fell incomplete.

Late in the quarter, Savage completed third-down passes to Adam Harris and then Rispoli, but the Bears' drive stalled just shy of midfield in the first minute of the fourth quarter. When Nanuet soon advanced to the Briarcliff 34-yard line, linebacker Jayden Amador stepped up to



Briarcliff/Hamilton quarterback Jaylen Savage picks up big yardage running the ball in the second quarter of Saturday's home game against Nanuet.

make several big defensive plays, including a sack of Frondi for a 17-yard loss.

The Bears' final chance to create suspense about the outcome came after a high snap on a Nanuet punt gave them the ball at the Knights' 35-yard line. On third-and-10, Savage completed another clutch pass with a looping throw that a wide open and diving Lachlan Coolen grabbed just above the turf.

But four plays later, Savage, under heavy pressure and moving to his right, leaped in the air before throwing toward Proctor in the back of the end zone. The ball hung up too long, though, and Moran picked it off to seal the outcome with four minutes remaining.

"I don't fault him at all," said Stevens about the final pass by Savage. "I'm glad he's trying to make a play. But that put us in a spot at that point and then we couldn't come up with a big stop. So they just ran out the clock."

With one game against tougher opponents now under their belts, Stevens is looking for his Bears to build on what they showed in the second half against Nanuet.

"I don't think we played our best game today," he said. "But hopefully we get better every day. Yes, we lost the game, but this is where we wanted to be — building a program that when I took over had 20 kids. Now we're at 41 kids and they work hard every day and they're just gonna get better."



The Briarcliff/Hamilton defense gangs up to make a tackle in the first half of Saturday's home game against Nanuet.

ANDY JACOBS PHOTOS



Desmond Saw of Briarcliff tries to get through the line of scrimmage in the Bears' 21-7 loss to the visiting Nanuet Golden Knights.



Samantha Reder of Fox Lane gets set to pass the ball to a teammate in the Foxes' game vs. the John Jay Patriots.



Kelly Damore of Fox Lane gets set to make contact with the ball on a long hit in the first quarter of last week's game at John Jay.



Fox Lane's Kate Lash controls the ball in the opening half of the Foxes' 5-1 loss to host John Jay on Thursday evening.



Briarcliff goalkeeper Dylan Zednik kicks the ball up the field in the first half of the Mt. Pleasant Cup title game vs. archrival Pleasantville.

SPORTS SCENE



Thomas Giaccone of Westlake is about to boot the ball away in the second half of last week's Mt. Pleasant Cup championship game.



Fox Lane's Zoe Stonecipher sends the ball up the field in the first half of Thursday evening's game at John Jay (East Fishkill).

Sports



Westlake's Dylan Pray controls the ball near midfield in the Wildcats' 4-2 victory over Briarcliff in the title game of the Mt. Pleasant Cup soccer tourney.



Fox Lane goalie Maya Leihward tries to stop a penalty stroke off the stick of John Jay's Rachel Tama in the first half of last Thursday night's game.



Fox Lane's Maggy Grasso moves the ball along the right sideline in the Foxes' road game against John Jay of East Fishkill.



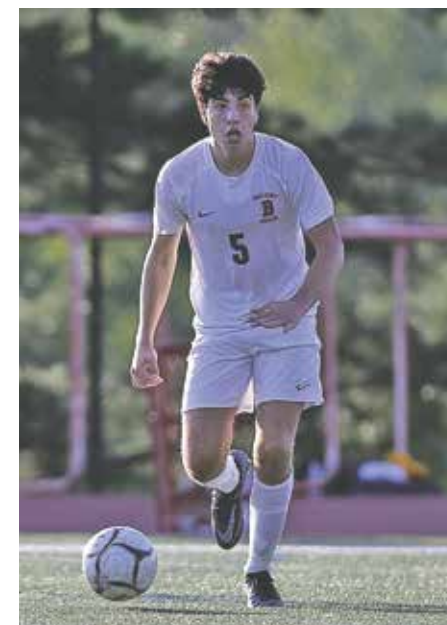
Ava Makaron of Briarcliff is chased by Cadence DeLuca of Pleasantville during the Bears' 1-0 win in the Mt. Pleasant Cup championship game last week.



Pleasantville's Maddie Braverman controls the ball in front of Briarcliff's Sophia Zielinski in the championship game of the Mt. Pleasant Cup soccer tournament.



Sidney Sicignano of Fox Lane races up the field with the ball in the second quarter of last Thursday's road game vs. the John Jay Patriots.



Briarcliff's Miles Prosperino surveys the field as controls the ball in the title game of the Mt. Pleasant Cup.

Bobcats Lose Football Opener to Ardsley



Byram Hills quarterback Jared Cohen threw for 266 yards and a touchdown and also ran for another score in Saturday's 33-21 season-opening loss to visiting Ardsley.



Justin Barad of Byram Hills makes one of his three receptions in Saturday afternoon's home game against the Ardsley Panthers.



Gino Secchiano of Byram Hills heads for the end zone in the Bobcats' 33-21 loss to Ardsley. He finished with seven receptions for 152 yards.

TONY HUMBERTO PHOTOS

BEAR HUNTING SEASON



**Briarcliff's Brandon Rispoli
Gets Chased Near Midfield
by Nanuet's Brendan Bennett
in the Season-Opening Game**